

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 16-30 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Crane. Claims 16-30 remain active.

Considering then the rejection of Claims 16-30 under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Crane, it is to be noted that the Examiner has stated that the gear box of Crane includes an upper piece 34 and lower piece 33 as well as a front piece (guard members 37, 37a) that is thicker than the upper part and as mentioned specifically, the increased part 37a shown in Figure 6 and reproduced in the Office Action comprising the front piece claimed. In this regard, Applicants first note that the guard members 37, 37a do not comprise part of the gear box but instead comprise semi-circular protectors for the gear box that are secured thereto. Thus it is felt that the limitation in the second paragraph of Claim 16 is not met with regard to the claim limitation of a gear box having an upper part, a lower part, and a front piece, the front piece having a thickness greater than the thickness of the upper part.

It is additionally noted that while the Examiner has indicated that part 37a shown in Figure 6 illustrates increased thickness, such is actually not the case insofar as the view in Figure 6 taken along line 6-6 in Figure 3 only shows the cross section of member 37 whereas member 37a is in the background and is not shown in cross section. To better understand the correct cross section of element 37a, reference is made to Figure 7 which shows that the actual thickness of member 37a is the same as or substantially the same as that of upper part 34 and lower part 33 of the gear box of Crane. By comparison, in the present invention, the gear box 8 comprises a top part 26 (shown in blue in the attached figures in Attachment A), a bottom part 27 (shown in green) and a front part 28 (shown in pink) the front part can in fact carry semi-circular protectors (as shown in yellow in Figure 1). By comparison, in Figure 6 of Crane shown in Attachment B, a copy of which is attached, the transmission case 32 is

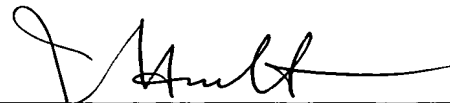
formed by a top part 34 (shown in blue in Attachment B) and a bottom part 33 (shown in green) and assembled with screws 31. Main bearings 43 (shown in red) are welded to the top part 34 of the case. As can thus be appreciated, in front of the transmission case 32 of Crane, semi-circular protectors 37 and 37a are secured (shown in yellow). These protectors consist of three parts A, B and C that are assembled with two bolts D. It appears that part C is welded onto the top part 32 of the case 32 and that bolts D provide the link of parts A and B with part C. As can thus be appreciated, the front piece 28 of the gear box having a thickness greater than the thickness of the upper part 26 of the gear box is part of the gear box rather than an attachment thereto and neither guard member 37 nor guard member 37a, to the contrary, are either part of the gear box nor have the thickness claimed of the front piece of the gear box as presently claimed. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's attorney if he has any questions regarding this matter.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that Claim 16 as presently claimed, clearly patentably defines over Crane as well as the remaining references of record.

Applicants further submit that each of Claims 17-30 contain additional limitations having no corresponding teaching or disclosure in Crane or any of the remaining references of record. Accordingly, it is submitted that each of Claims 16-30 merit favorable reconsideration and the same is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



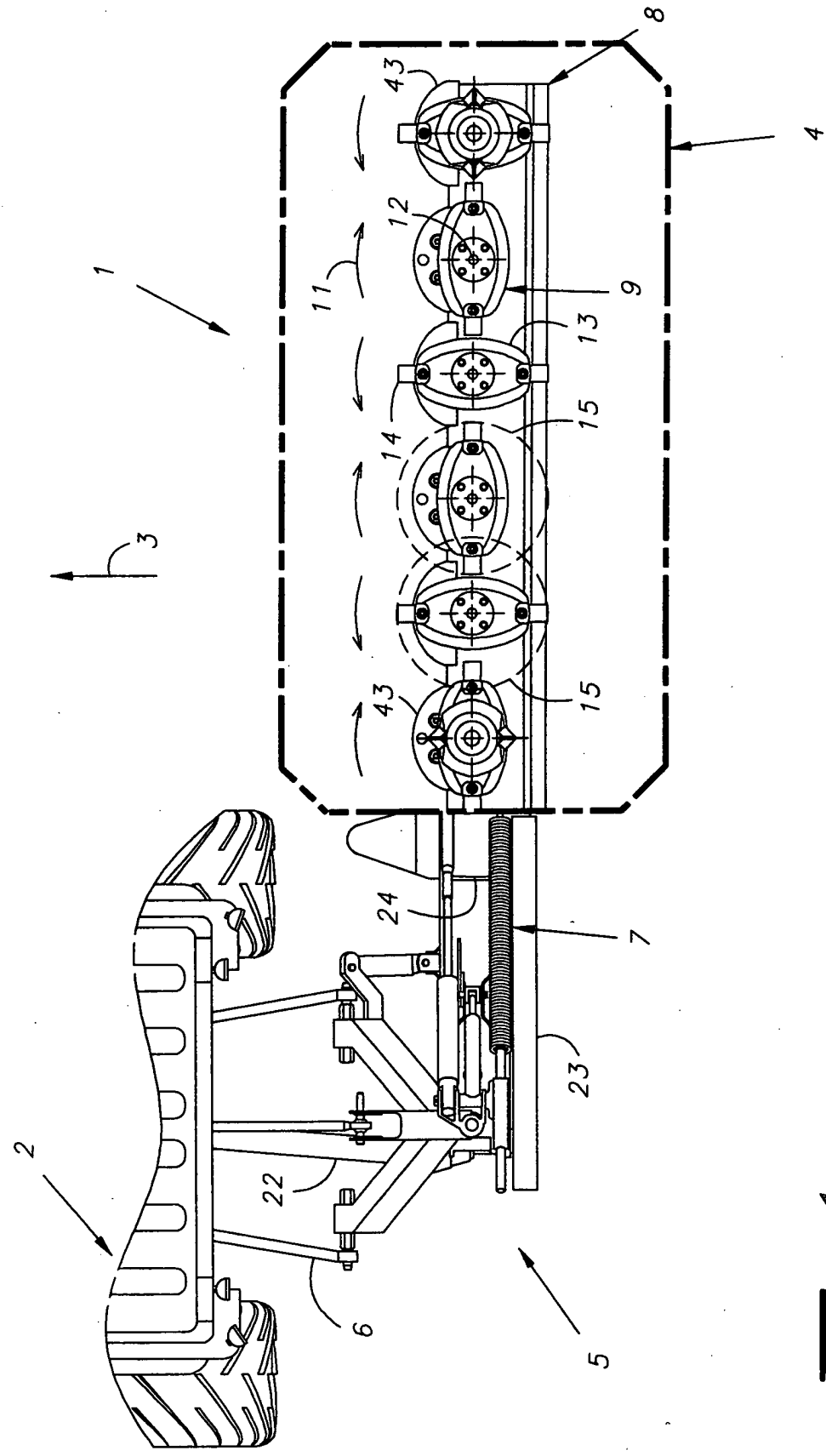
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ATTACHMENT A

Figure 1

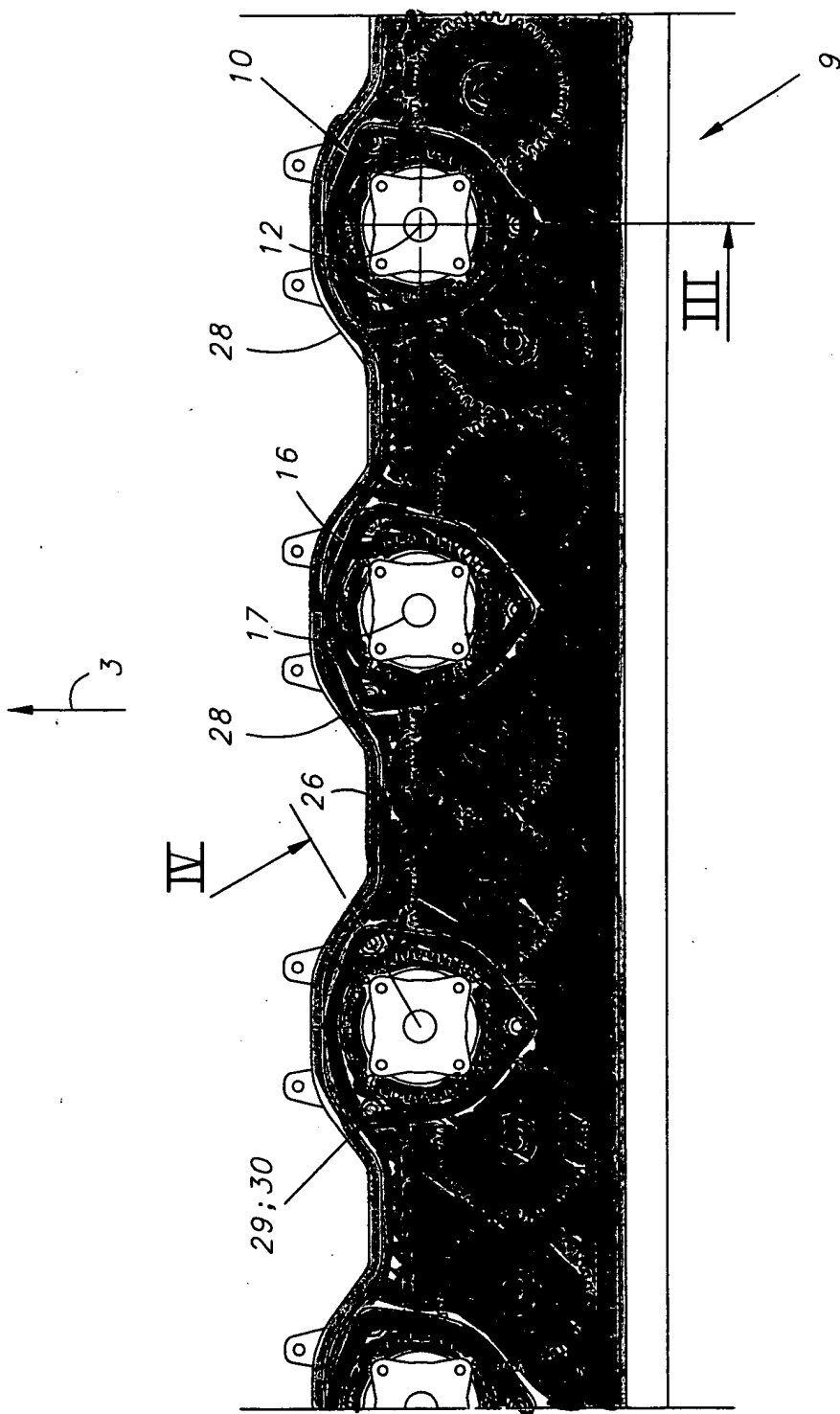
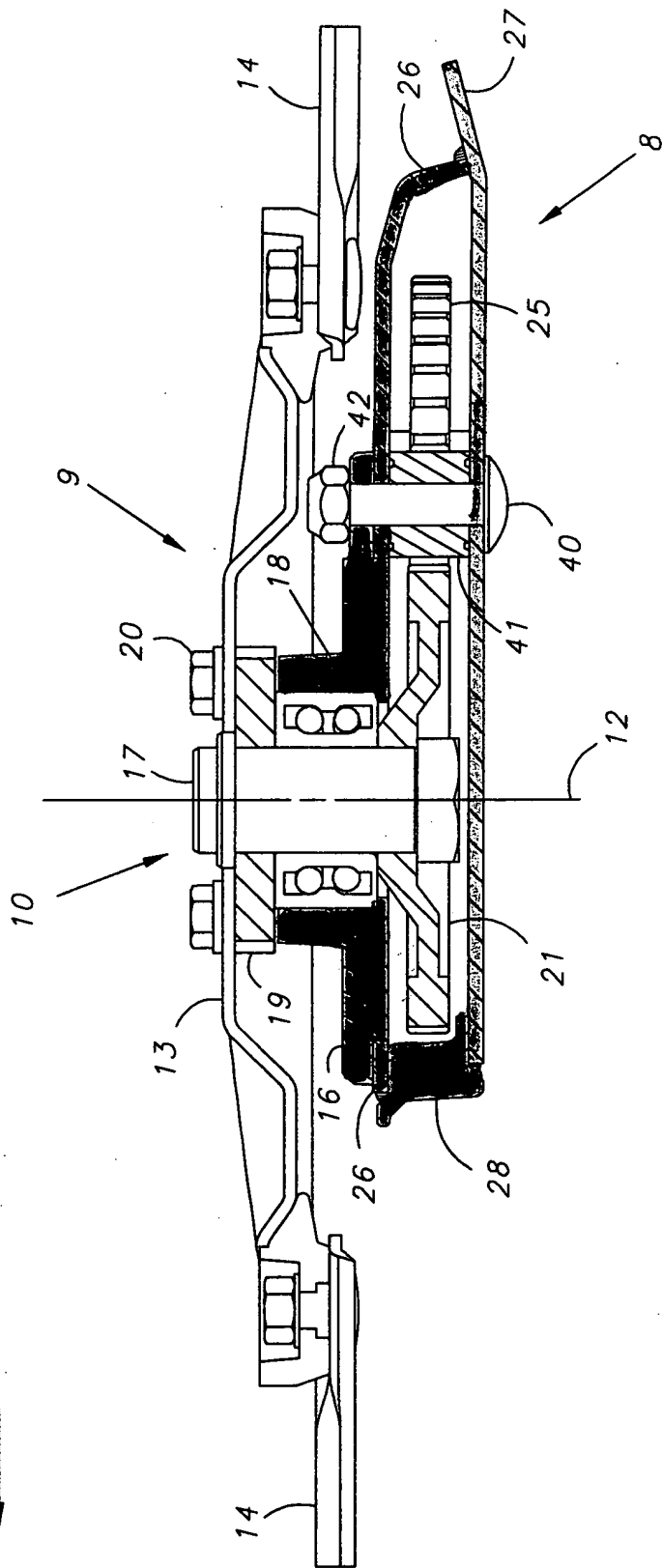


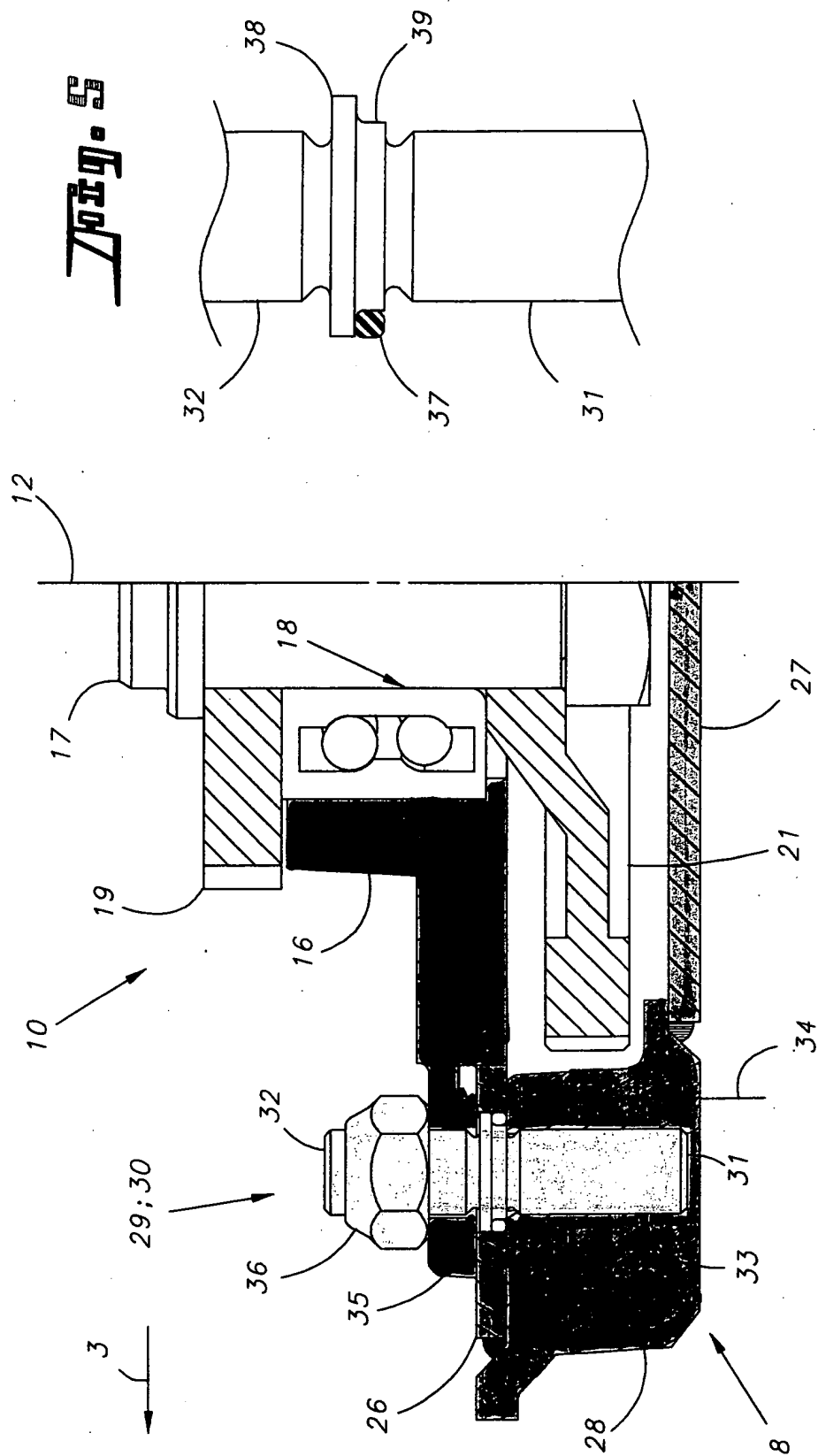
Figure 3

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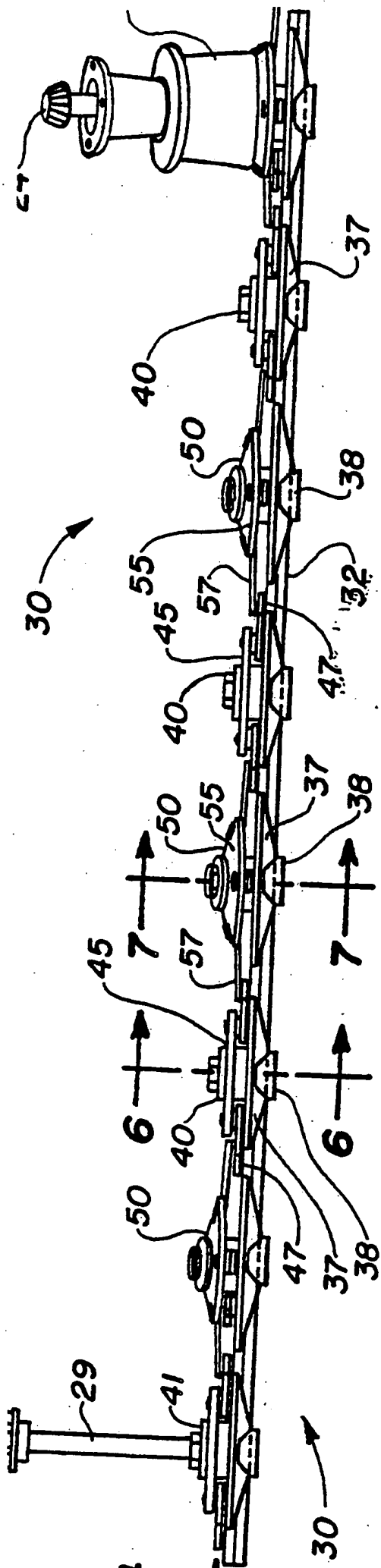
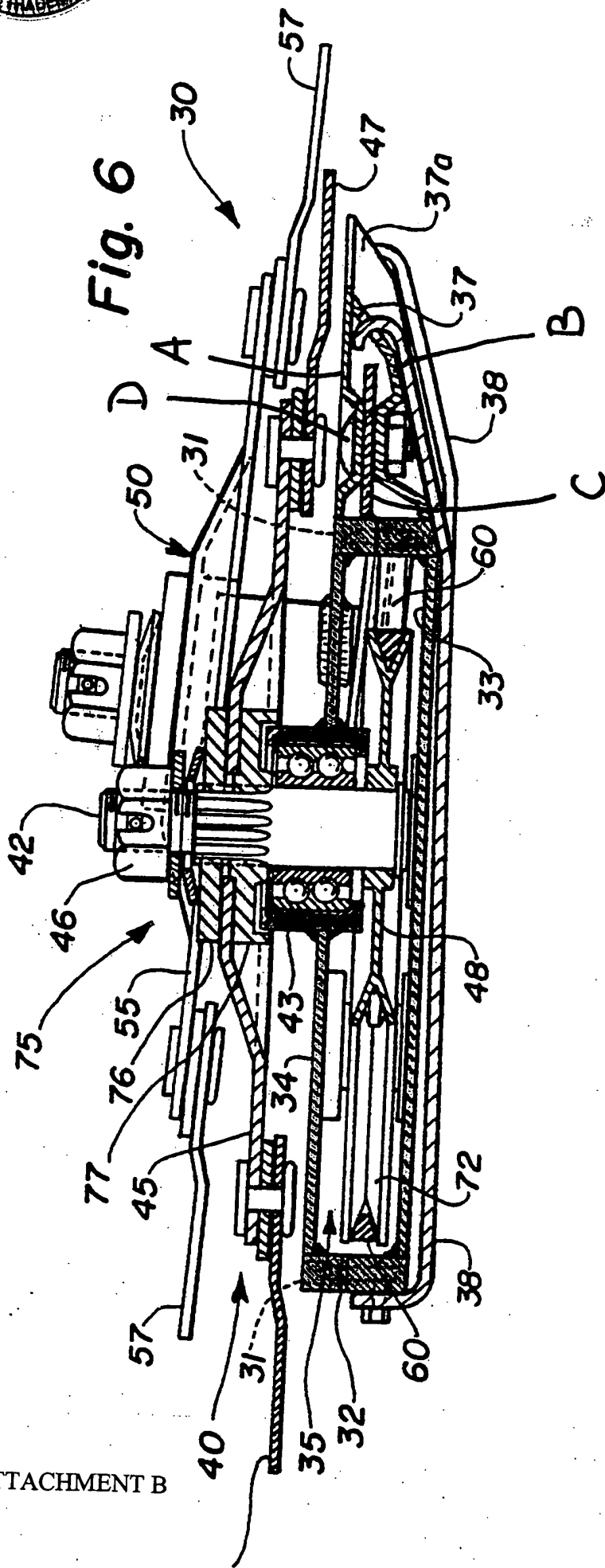


Fig. 6



ATTACHMENT B